

May 22, 1998

EPA-SAB-CASAC-LTR-98-002

Honorable Carol M. Browner
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
401 M Street SW
Washington, DC 20460

Subject: CASAC Review of Project Work Plan for the Particulate
Matter Criteria Document

Dear Ms. Browner:

The Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) met on May 5, 1998 to review the *Project Work Plan For Preparation of Revised U.S. EPA Air Quality Criteria for Particulate Matter (2000)*, developed by the National Center for Environmental Assessment (NCEA) in Research Triangle Park, NC. This work plan describes the general approach and schedule NCEA proposes to follow in developing the criteria document for the next review of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for particulate matter (PM).

NCEA staff presented a well-developed and clearly-stated plan which included steps and milestones appropriate for meeting the mandated deadline for completion of the next PM review. The Committee agreed with the general organization of the document into the nine chapters specified in the plan, and engaged with staff in a productive discussion of subtopics within the chapters. The discussion ended with an agreement on the general structure and scope of the chapters.

The Committee was pleased with NCEA staff's proposal for taking a new approach in their development of the next PM criteria document. Stated in general terms, this approach will produce a document which builds on previous knowledge, but avoids recapitulating in a comprehensive manner the information contained in previous criteria documents. The Committee was unanimous in its view that this is a much-needed shift in the Agency's approach to criteria documents, and looks forward to working with NCEA staff to completing the document in a timely manner.

We look forward to the opportunity to evaluate the external review draft of the PM criteria document in the fall of 1999, as the current schedule dictates.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joe L. Mauderly, Chair
Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Science Advisory Board
Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC)**

Chair

Dr. Joe Mauderly, Director Of External Affairs, Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute,
Albuquerque, NM

Members

Mr. John Elston, Administrator, Office of Air Quality Management, State of New Jersey,
Department of Environmental Protection and Energy, Trenton, NJ

Dr. Philip K. Hopke, R.A. Plane Professor of Chemistry, Clarkson University, Department of
Chemistry, Potsdam, NY

Dr. Jay S. Jacobson, Plant Physiologist, Boyce Thompson Institute, Cornell University, Ithaca,
NY

Dr. Arthur C. Upton, M.D., Director, Independent Peer Review, CRESP, Environmental and
Occupational Health Sciences Institute, Piscataway, NJ

Dr. Sverre Vedal, M.D., Professor of Medicine, Respiratory Division, Vancouver General
Hospital, Vancouver, BC Canada

Dr. Warren White, Senior Research Associate, Washington University, Chemistry Department,
St. Louis, MO

Science Advisory Board Staff

Mr. Robert Flaak, Designated Federal Official (DFO) and Team Leader, Committee Operations
Staff, US Environmental Protection Agency, Science Advisory Board (1400),
Washington, DC 20460

Ms. Dorothy M. Clark, Staff Secretary, US Environmental Protection Agency, Science Advisory
Board (1400), Washington, DC 20460

NOTICE

This report has been written as a part of the activities of the Science Advisory Board, a public advisory group providing extramural scientific information and advice to the Administrator and other officials of the Environmental Protection Agency. The Board is structured to provide balanced expert assessment of scientific matters related to problems faced by the Agency. This report has not been reviewed for approval by the Agency; and hence, the contents of this report do not necessarily represent the views and policies of the Environmental Protection Agency or other agencies in the Federal government. Mention of trade names or commercial products does not constitute a recommendation for use.

DISTRIBUTION LIST

Administrator
Deputy Administrator
Assistant Administrators
Deputy Assistant Administrator for Science, ORD
Director, Office of Science Policy, ORD
Director, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, OAR
Director, National Center for Environmental Assessment, ORD, RTP, NC
Director, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, OAR, RTP, NC
EPA Regional Administrators
EPA Laboratory Directors
EPA Headquarters Library
EPA Regional Libraries
EPA Laboratory Libraries
Library of Congress
National Technical Information Service
Congressional Research Service